

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103932 to Bilbrey et al. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-6, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 7-24, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the device of the Bilbrey et al. reference does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. In the device of the Bilbrey et al. reference, a re-connection manager (RM) in the disclosed system operates as follows: The RM, upon receiving a request to update e-mail addresses of recipients, for example, obtains an e-mail address list which includes the addresses of the identified recipients from a Sponsor's server and "changes of addresses" (COA) from one or more Network servers. The COA includes information regarding changes of e-mail addresses related to e-mails the Network server has transmitted. Then, the RM determines whether or not the e-mail address of the COA matches the old e-mail address in the list provided by the Sponsor's server, then sends the Network server a request to verify the recipient's permission for updating the e-mail address in the list. After receiving the verified permission from the Network server, the RM updates the e-mail address list stored in the Sponsor server with only the authorized e-mail address in COA.

In the above-mentioned process, the RM must identify all the Sponsor servers and Network servers which are capable of being linked to a network which the RM manages, for example, a network specified as an “E-mail Address Change Network (EACN)”. It must also receive all COAs which the Network server has stored each time it receives a request for updating.

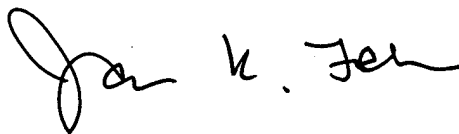
In contrast, in the present invention, such as shown in Applicant’s Figure 1, server 1 does not need to identify other servers which are capable of transmitting messages sent from client 4. Server 1, after receiving an “absence response information” (ARI) from client 4, can determine which of the other servers should be notified of changing the address based on the received ARI and the message address list generally managed by the server 1 itself. The server 1, from the received ARI, extracts the address of the server to be notified (shown as server 2 in Fig. 1) as the destination of transmission of the received ARI. Thus, every server which is capable of transmitting messages can obtain information regarding changing addresses and transmits a message using a new message address. Thus, as the invention of Claims 7-24 differs from the device of the Bilbrey et al. reference, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of Claims 7-24.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Folker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

By

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